

Riverton 12/3/2014 Public Meeting Comments

Group 1

Thoughts about Mule Deer Working Group and Recommendations

- Working group carries a lot of weight
- Think process is working well
- Support lifting APR, youth restrictions, and whitetail seasons

Thank you for the comments regarding the working group and the recommendations.

Deer Hunt Area 36

- In support of limited quota
Department personnel will begin examining this idea for the 2016 season.
- Would need to determine number of licenses/be adaptive
- Concern of shifting hunting pressure

Other thoughts and recommendations

- Too many mule deer permits in HA 157
The 2015 season proposal calls for a license reduction in 157.
- Too many antelope permits in HA 97
The buck/doe ratio remains extremely high in area 97. Recruitment was good in 2014 and survival from 2013 to 2014 was excellent. For these reasons, no license reductions are proposed for 2015.
- Lack of animals
For several years the Department has been setting liberal seasons for both deer and antelope in hunt areas 157 and 97. The intent of these seasons was to reduce game numbers in response to numerous landowner complaints. Department personnel agree game numbers in these areas are significantly less than several years ago but the stated intent of recent management was to reduce populations.
- Increase late season elk tags on Green Mountain. Don't allow early season hunters back
- Lack of bobcat tracks – low numbers?
Area Trappers have been reporting fewer bobcats and bobcat sign. No formal data is collected, but it is likely the population is down.
- Concern about hunter safety age limit, decrease the age
There is not a minimum age limit to take a hunter safety course. Some instructors may place their own limits on classes due to past experiences. We have had individuals as young as 6 or 7 take the course and pass the exam, but this is not typical.
- Get rid of nonresident conservation stamp, add to license
This has been discussed, but since the funds collected from conservation stamps go to specific programs and the fact that many nonresidents have lifetime

conservations stamps or may not draw a license they apply for this could create additional problems.

- More archery only seasons especially for elk
 - o Increased odds for drawing
 - o Too many rifle hunters, crowding issue

This comes up every year and it may work well in some areas and we will likely see more of this type of opportunity around the state in future years, but according to multiple hunter surveys (deer, elk and antelope) most hunters are still opposed to the creation of type 9 licenses.

- Concern of crossbows legal for archery season (ethics related)
- Increase muzzleloader seasons

This comes up every year and it has been popular in some of the areas that have this opportunity now. However, according to multiple hunter surveys (deer, elk and antelope) most hunters are still opposed to these types of seasons.

Group 2

Thoughts about Mule Deer Working Group and Recommendations

- WT disease population numbers
- WT hunters concerns
- Good youth season opportunities and dates
- Archers hunting doe/any deer not allowed

This was discussed on a statewide basis and the decision was made to continue allowing this opportunity. In many/most areas this has no impact at all and is only a very small fraction of the deer harvest.

- APRs lifted increases hunting opportunity but may negatively impact numbers of deer
- APRs may lead to more waste (counterproductive)

The removal of APRs is being proposed for the 2015 hunting season.

- Hunter crowding issues

Deer Hunt Area 36

- How hard to reverse limited quota? (public support)
- Nonresidents preference points
- Number of people displaced by changing general area to limited quota
- *Poor deer population something needs to happen
- Area 36 as pilot project

We plan to propose this for the 2016 hunting season and will be discussing all of these issues/concerns.

Other thoughts and recommendations

- Mule deer type-9 tags potential increase in areas going to limited quota
- Type-9s limits weapon

- Increase opportunity for archers to hunt
- Already opportunity for both archery and rifle now as regs stated
- Doesn't mean tags go away if type-9 increase, type-9 success not as good as rifle.
Quotas reflect that?

This comes up every year and it may work well in some areas and we will likely see more of this type of opportunity around the state in future years, but according to multiple hunter surveys (deer, elk and antelope) most hunters are still opposed to the creation of type 9 licenses.

- Keep doing these meetings
We plan to continue the December meetings as long as we continue to have people show up interested in participating. Thank you for your continued participation and support!!!